

SENATE BILL 2997  
By Cooper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50, Chapter 7, relative to the Tennessee Job Skills Program.

WHEREAS, the general assembly recognized the importance of assisting Tennesseans in learning additional skills as a path to attaining better paying, higher skilled jobs with the creation of the Tennessee Job Skills Program and Job Skills fund in 1998; and

WHEREAS, in today's competitive and challenging economic environment, companies value the education and skills of their employees as the most critical and vital component in achieving success; and

WHEREAS, sound public policy dictates that the general assembly strive to improve the lives of Tennesseans by ensuring the availability of an educated, skilled and productive workforce for companies making new jobs investments within the state and companies making new jobs investments within the state and companies seeking to expand current operations; and

WHEREAS, since the year 2000, the Tennessee job skills fund has received no new funding to provide training opportunities to assist Tennesseans in enhancing skills necessary in attaining better career opportunities; and

WHEREAS, adequate and available funding through the job skills fund is critical to ensure the availability of a skilled and productive workforce in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-7-451(b)(1), is amended by deleting the second sentence and by substituting instead the following:

The Tennessee job skills fee shall be fifteen hundredths of a percent (0.15%) of the employer's wages, as defined in §50-7-213, and shall apply only when premium rate table 6, as defined in §50-7-403(g), is in effect; except when premium rate table 2 is in effect, but does not exceed premium rate table 6, the Tennessee job skills fee shall be

seventy-five thousandths of a percent (0.075%) of the employer's wages. In the event that §50-7-213, is amended to increase the amount of wages on which employers pay their unemployment insurance premiums to an amount greater than seven thousand dollars (\$7,000) paid to each employee during the calendar year, the Tennessee jobs skills fee of fifteen hundredths of a percent (0.15%) will be reduced proportionately so that the amount of revenue generated by the Tennessee jobs skills fee will be no greater than the revenue which would be generated if employers subject to the Tennessee job skills fee were paying at a rate of fifteen hundredths of a percent (0.15%) on the first seven thousand dollars (\$7,000) paid to each employee during a calendar year.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.